

**Smith has held many positions  
in her 38 year career at YSU**

"If I had to do it over again I wouldn't change a thing," stated Mrs. Mary B. Smith, director of career planning and placement, who has held various positions at YSU since 1939.

In her 37-year career, Smith has been assistant registrar, head of the health and physical education departments, recorder, regis-

trar and director of career planning and placement.

She was married to Joseph Smith, an academic dean of YSU, which is equivalent to a vice-president today. Before coming to Youngstown College in 1937, he taught at Hiram College. He began here as an economics professor. Mr. Smith passed away in 1970, after two years of retirement.

Since she began at YSU, Smith has seen it grow from 1,400 to 16,000 students. "The only buildings on campus were Jones and East Halls. Both boys and girls attended gym classes in the YMCA and the YWCA. Tennis classes were held in area parks," she stated.

At this time in the University's history, employees were expected to perform many duties. She recalled teaching biology to a group of nurses stating, "It was so much fun keeping ahead of them since I didn't know any more biology than they did."

Smith comments, "There is no basic difference between students then and today, although students today are more sophisticated in the way they approach life and are not quite as wedded to home as they were then."

When she first came to Youngstown College in 1939 the first generation of students were attending college and their sons and daughters are now attending. When she counsels students at the Placement Office, they frequently ask her if she remembers their parents. She says that, "It's because of those times that I realize how long I've been here."

In citing how University life has changed Smith states that "more girls are in school today and the opportunities are greater." She also added that there was a more cohesive school spirit years ago than there is today because "the school was smaller and everyone knew each other." She cites an example of this cohesiveness when the students went together as a group to the President to ask him for a football team. "Today many students live and work off campus. They are far removed from the campus activities."

According to Smith, YSU was unique in that there wasn't a campus riot after the Kent State shootings. She commented that since many of the students here worked and paid their own tuition, they weren't as willing to strike in protest over Kent State. She gave an example of a student who took time off from work to attend a class in mid-afternoon. A few students who were trying to organize a strike, blocked the student from entering his class. He gave his books to another student, picked up one of the strikers blocking the doorway, moved him to the side, collected his books and entered the class. He said to the protesters, "I don't

know who pays for your education, but I pay for my own and I intend to get my education."

Smith also states that the job market has changed not only since she first came here, but also since the recession of the early 1970's. "Jobs are opening up in business," she adds, "especially for accountants and those interested in sales, provided they are willing to relocate." Smith stresses that, "It is always hard to get a job if you have a preconceived notion of what you want." She added, "You must be flexible and creative because job hunting takes digging and time." According to Smith, the area with the least amount of openings is "elementary education in the Youngstown school district."

To all students who come to her for advice Smith states, "Be the very best you can be in your field." She adds, "Do your thing by finding out as much as you can about yourself as a person. Then," she stresses, "develop your potential to the fullest." When a student chooses a career she tells them, "If this is what you want to do, then *do it*."

Smith said that today she



Mary Smith

spends some of her leisure time on the golf course, although at one time she played semi-professional basketball in Warren for 10 years. She also had the opportunity to play professional basketball in Canada, but she rejected the idea in favor of her education.

Smith especially likes to see the development and construction of the YSU Sports Complex because "it's supposed to be a teaching facility." Mrs. Smith adds, "The P.E. department needs more room and equipment for their classes, such as badminton, and the Sports Complex can solve this problem."

Smith, who was born in Pittsburgh, attended Hiram College. She took time out to teach elementary school in Mecca (Trumbull County). She also was alumnus secretary at Hiram from 1935 until 1939, when she received her degree.

After graduation Smith came to Youngstown College and did admissions work until she left to  
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# Mary Smith

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teach at Hayes Junior High. She was later called back to the College as assistant registrar.

Smith also worked in the health and physical education department when the girls' classes were still held at the YWCA. After receiving her master's in H&PE from Ohio State University, Smith became head of Youngstown's health and physical education department.

In 1956 Smith was named recorder of Youngstown University. She handled all aspects of registration and was named registrar in 1967. She held that position until the spring of 1973 when she was asked to help in the Placement Office part time. In August of 1973 she was named director of placement.

Also actively involved in local affairs, Smith is currently presi-

dent of Family Life, of the Altrusa Club, of the Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and of the U.N. Branch in Youngstown. She belongs to the boards of the YWCA, of the First Christian Church and the Cooperative Campus Ministry.

Smith also belongs to the Midwest College Placement Association and the National College Placement Association and is a lifetime member of the Ohio Association of College Registrars.

In addition, Smith is advisor of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority (the former Gamma Sigma) and patroness of Sigma Alpha Tau honorary fraternity.

Smith will be honored at the Greek Sing April 22. She was chosen for the honor because of her longtime dedication to the University.